

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Figures 1-17 have been amended to be labelled as prior art. The specification has been amended to correct a clerical error as noted by the Examiner.

Applicant submits that all claims were commonly owned at the time of any inventions covered therein.

Claims 1-26 are pending in this application. By this amendment, claim 1 has been amended, claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 11-26 have been cancelled without prejudice, and claims 27 to 34 have been added.

New claims 27 – 34 have been added to further clarify the elements of the present invention. Support for these claims can be generally found in the description and, in particular, at page 70, line 7 to page 72, line 5.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, and 22-25 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Uchino (US 20020080148) in view of Shinagawa et al. (US No. 6,137,910).

Applicant submits that Uchino relates to a technique of combining a two-dimensional image and a three-dimensional model generated by a computer and modifying color/ambience to provide a more natural appearing 2D image or 3D object. As a part of this process, Uchino describes a structure for generating object color component data based on two images (one with a flash and one without). This process involves using identical photographic range, identical shutter speed, and stop value. Differential image data is generated by subtracting the second image data from the first

Appl. No. 09/991,985
Amdt. dated Feb. 28, 2005
Reply to the Office Action of Nov. 26, 2004

image data (RGB values). Uchino does not appear to deal with matching of images in motion pictures at all.

Applicant submits that Shinagawa relates to a method of image matching between two images based on critical points and interpolation between the two images based on that matching. Applicant submits that the purpose of calculating the differential image data in Uchino is not related to the matching or interpolation of images as is contemplated in Shinagawa.

The current application relates to a digital camera that includes a simplified motion picture shooting mode that is an intermediate shooting mode between a still picture shooting mode and a motion picture shooting mode. In particular, in the intermediate shooting mode, a plurality of images can be shot using one shooting action with a predetermined time interval between images and a simplified motion picture can be generated by interpolating intermediate images therebetween. This leads to the significant effect that motion picture shooting/reproduction can be performed while using less data than conventional methods of shooting/reproducing a motion picture. Applicant submits that this intermediate shooting mode was not available with a conventional digital camera at the time of the present invention or patent application.

Applicant submits that neither Uchino nor Shinagawa teach nor does the combination suggest a digital camera having a simplified motion picture shooting mode that is intermediate between a still picture shooting mode and a motion picture shooting mode as claimed, for example, in independent claim 1.

Applicant therefore submits that claim 1 is in condition for allowance. For at least similar reasons, applicant submits that independent claim 28 is also in condition for

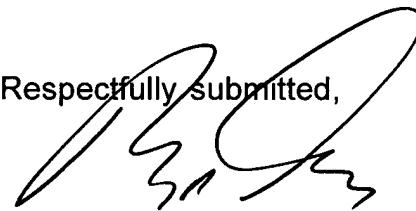
Appl. No. 09/991,985
Amdt. dated Feb. 28, 2005
Reply to the Office Action of Nov. 26, 2004

allowance. Claims 4, 7, 10, 27 and 29-34 depend from independent claim 1 or independent claim 28 and, for similar reasons, and based on the additional elements therein, are also in condition for allowance.

Conclusion:

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favourable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


Ralph A. Dowell
Registration No. 26,868

Dowell & Dowell, P.C.
Suite 406
2111 Eisenhower Avenue
Arlington, Virginia 22314
U.S.A.

Telephone (703) 415-2555
Facsimile (703) 415-2559

Date: 2/28/05

NH/sc
B&P: 14376-15